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SUBJECT: CFC WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24: NO MEETINGS BUT WORKING GROUP
FORMS

WORKING GROUP TO BUILD CFC CAPACITY

1. (SBU) Neither the First nor Second Chamber of the Cease-fire Commission (CFC) met the week of September 24 because Force Commander Agwai had left for Nigeria and Deputy Force Commander Karake was traveling the area of operation. The working group, however, addressed the two general topics of internal procedures/incident tracking and actual investigations/training. The Secretariat has a good form for logging and tracking cases, but it has not been updated nor used since July. It also does not have an entry for follow-up action nor are open cases from the log automatically placed on the weekly agenda.

2. (SBU) The working group also discussed the Investigations SOP draft prepared by the US Observer with input from CivPol investigations and former US Observers. Most of the substantive discussion (which at times became quite animated) revolved around witness questioning and when to put opinions in the report. There was considerable disagreement over the best way to get out all the facts but avoid witness intimidation. There was also considerable disagreement as to whether the investigators' opinions should be limited to the final section of the report or be used throughout to provide context. Once the Secretariat completes its draft version, the CFC AMIS and CivPol representatives will be invited to join the working group to develop the SOP further before it is presented to each chamber of the CFC.

A FRESH APPROACH?

3. (SBU) The new head of the CFC Secretariat arrived just as Agwai announced his desire to reform the CFC. In addition, under the Light Support Package (LSP), a Dutch Army officer with a military police background has been assigned to the CFC Secretariat, which might bring fresh thinking to the operation. The UN and U.S. observers are also trying to help the CFC Secretariat develop capacity in doing basic staff work, such as coordination, follow up and follow through, and taking the initiative.

COMMENT

4. (SBU) The creation of the working group, and its work so far, are a good start, and the UN and U.S. observers will remain engaged. However, the biggest challenge facing the CFC now is that it lacks the ability to conduct independent investigations. End comment.

FERNANDEZ